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FAX (212)319-7663 OR (212)644-8678

A REPLY TO THE SPEECH OF SHIMON PERES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 1, 1992

Submitted to

The President of the General Assembly and all United Nations members of the 47th Session

Ву

Issa Nakhleh, LLB. (Lond.)
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Member of the Palestine Bar
Representative, Arab Higher Committee for
Palestine in New York, 1947 - until today
Chairman, Palestine Arab Delegation

October 5, 1992

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Mr. Peres stated, "Israel does not ignore its still existing disagreements with our neighbors. The record shows we are working to solve them humanely, honorably and, wherever possible, permanently." Is it honorable or human that Israel has today in October, 1992, incarcerated 18,000 Palestinian men and women in prisons and Nazi-like concentration camps? Is it honorable and human that these Palestinian prisoners are humiliated, tortured, starved and living under the most inhuman conditions, and in many instances killed under torture?

Israel from 1967 until today usurped 65% of the lands and 95% of water resources of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, and established 190 Jewish settlements in violation of the Human Rights Conventions. Israel transferred to the occupied territories 200,000 Jews and settled in Jerusalem 250,000 Jews. Israel is torturing all the people of the West Bank and Gaza by collective punishments, taxes, curfews and destruction of their economy.

Since the beginning of the Intifada in December, 1987, until the end of June, 1992, Israel committed the following crimes: 1,063 Palestinian men and women were killed; more than 500 Palestinian women aborted due to Israeli physical attacks or use of gas bombs; 123,418 Palestinians were seriously injured, some of them maimed for life; 145,134 olive and fruit trees were uprooted; 2,065 Palestinian homes were either demolished or sealed, making more than 17,000 Palestinians homeless.

Mr. Peres stated, "With the Palestinian people, our conflict has been long and painful. We seek to end this conflict....The suggested path is an interim self-government arrangement, as conceived in Camp David. We know that this proposal is imperfect in some respects. Self-government is less than independence.....But instead of attempting to draw

a map of a self-governing territory--and it is doubtful this could be achieved now--we have suggested a definitive timetable. So while this proposal lacks the clarity of a map, it provides the commitment of a calendar."

The honorable Delegates who know the facts of the Palestine problem know how Israel disregards all United Nations resolutions related to Palestine and act as a colonial regime of apartheid. In 1947 the General Assembly passed Resolution 181 (II) partitioning Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state. The boundaries of the Jewish state and the Arab state were defined in the said resolution. The City of Jerusalem was established as a corpus separatum under a special international regime administered by the United Nations. The area of the Jewish state was 54% and the Arab state was 46% of the land of Palestine.

The Jewish minority declared a Jewish state in accordance with Resolution 181 (II) within the boundaries of the Jewish state called Israel. Israel asked the United Nations, the United States and the Soviet Union to recognize it within these boundaries. It was admitted to the United Nations after Israel undertook to respect the terms and conditions of Resolution 181 (II).

The Jewish minority was well-armed and militarily better trained than the Palestinians, and was aided and abetted by the forces of great Britain. The Soviet Union sent large quantities of weapons and ammunition to the Jews through Czechoslovakia. The Jewish minority was able to occupy 80% of the territory of Palestine and committed against the Palestinian-Arab majority the following War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide:

- 1. They violated the territorial integrity of Palestine and occupied 80% thereof.
- 2. They expelled from Palestine more than 800,000 Palestinian Arabs by violence and massacre.
- 3. They prevented the Palestinian refugees from returning to their homes.
 - 4. They committed many massacres against the Palestinians.
- 5. They erased from the map of Palestine 492 Arab small towns and villages and usurped all of the houses, lands and properties of Palestinian Arabs in these towns and villages.

peace with the Palestinians, it should negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization and recognize the Palestine state which has been recognized by 93 members of the United Nations.

The General Assembly Resolution 181 (II) and Security Council Resolution 242 and other United Nations resolutions already defined the principles and basis for the permanent They defined the boundaries solution of the Palestine problem. Israel declared its of Israel and the Palestine State. independence within these boundaries, requested to be admitted as United Nations member within these boundaries, and undertook to respect the principles declared in the General Assembly Resolution 181 (II) between the Arab State and the Jewish State. What has been established by Israel using force has Israel must live in the Middle East, not no legal validity. as a colonial, expansionist regime of apartheid, but a peaceloving nation respecting the rights of Palestinians and other Arab states. Mutual security can be agreed upon and respected.

The United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, France and China must act through the United Nations Secretary General to arrange a meeting between Yasser Arafat, the President of the State of Palestine, Farouk Kadumi, his Foreign Minister, and Yitshak Rabin, and his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Members of the present Palestinian and Israeli peace delegations can act as advisors to the heads of their respective governments. The meeting should take place at the United Nations headquarters in New York or in Geneva or in Washington, D.C., under the auspices of the five permanent members of the Security Council. Israel and the Palestinians must discuss the following subjects:

- (a) The withdrawal by Israel of its armed forces, civil administration and Israeli citizens from the West Bank and Gaza within fifteen days.
- (b) The boundaries between Israel and the Palestine state.
- (c) Arrangements for co-existence between Israel and the Palestine state in Jerusalem and guarantees for the Holy places and freedom of religion for all faiths.
- (d) Giving all settlements established by Israel in the West Bank and Gaza to the Palestine state. This would be considered as part of a settlement between Israel and the Palestine state when discussing the restitution and compensation